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TELEGRAM

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2262

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FOR NEA ONLY

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: PINS, ASEC, AF, UR

SUBJECT: "NEW YORK TIMES" REPORTEDLY QUESTIONS SOVIET RES-
PONSIBILITY IN THE HANDLING OF THE KIDNAPPING OF AMBASSADOR
DUBS

1. ON FEBRUARY 17, VISITING "NEW YORK TIMES" REPORTER TRUM-
BULL TOLD AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT HIS NEWSPAPER HAD RECEIVED
THE PREVIOUS DAY FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE A SIX-PAGE
BRIEFING PAPER ON THE KILLING OF AMBASSADOR DUBS THAT WAS SO
INTERESTING THAT THE "NYT" GAVE IT FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT.
HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT EDITORS HAD "TONED DOWN" SOME OF
THE DEPARTMENT-PROVIDED MATERIAL CRITICAL OF THE SOVIET ROLE
IN THE INCIDENT, BECAUSE THEY FOUND IT TOO EXTREME AND NOT
SUPPORTED BY THE AVAILABLE EVIDENCE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO TRUMBULL'S QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT POINT, HE
WAS TOLD THAT EMBASSY OFFICERS DEFINITELY SAW SOVIET PER-
SONNEL AT THE INCIDENT SITE, OBSERVED THEIR ACTIVITIES, AND
TALKED DIRECTLY WITH THEM FROM TIME TO TIME. THE AMERICAN
OFFICER DID NOT, HOWEVER, HEAR ANY OF THE CONVERSATIONS BE-
TWEEN THE SOVIET ADVISORS AND THE AFGHAN POLICE. TRUMBULL

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WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THE EMBASSY HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT

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INFLUENCE SOVIET ADVISORS ELSEWHERE IN KABUL MIGHT HAVE HAD WITH THOSE HIGH AFGHAN OFFICIALS WHO MADE THE OPERATIONAL DECISIONS.

3. REQUEST: MAY THE EMBASSY PLEASE HAVE A COPY OF THE SIX-PAGE BRIEFING PAPER TO WHICH TRUMBULL REFERRED? ADDITIONALLY, MAY WE PLEASE HAVE A COPY OF THE "NEW YORK TIMES" ARTICLE BASED UPON THE BRIEFING PAPER?
AMSTUTZ

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